



Dear Parents/Carers and Students

WGS Newsletter (10) Covid Update (11/10/2021)

I am writing to update you on the latest Covid information and to explain some steps we are planning to take.

The number of Covid cases in school has been rising slowly over the last two weeks. We have approximately 40 students currently absent who have tested positive, and three staff absent (though this has been higher). This is definitely leading to some disruption to learning, and some people are still suffering with symptoms. Across the county, secondary schools range from low levels to over 80 pupils per day absent and we have been described as 'mid-table'. Despite not being a school with the highest rate of cases, I do feel that we should take some precautionary measures to reduce illness and further disruption.

After consulting with Public Health England we are taking the step, from Wednesday 13th October, to return to mask wearing between lessons in corridors. We expect students and staff, unless exempt, to wear their mask between classrooms when indoors. This will require students to have a mask in school every day. If you would like to register your child as exempt, please [click here](#).

Our approach is to trust that students and staff will not challenge individuals about mask-wearing; this worked extremely well last year and I expect the same this year.

Other steps will be continuing:

- Ventilating rooms as much as possible – the heating is on to help with warmth!
- Maintain distancing as much as possible
- Good hand hygiene
- Lateral Flow testing at home – we will send new kits out later this week to those who have requested them

CO₂ monitors have now arrived in school and we will be using these to help to monitor ventilation.

It is important that we all get behind this simple step as part of our Covid arrangements. Taking these precautionary steps now are intended to avoid needing to take further action. Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher